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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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64
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

INRE-00 IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /116 W
---------- 069424
P R 302245 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3624
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1112

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CU, US, OAS, CS
SUBJ: OASGA - CUBA POLICY

REF: A) STATE 058440, B) 058622

1. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER SALAZAR THIS MORNING TO PRESENT A NOTE CONVEYING THE PRESIDENT' S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FIGUERES (REF B), I REAFFIRMED U. S. POLICY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA AT THE OASGA (REF A), AND HANDED HIM A COPY OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HURWITHCH' S STATEMENT TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUB- COMMITTEE.

2. SALAZAR, WHO WILL HEAD THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATION TO THE GA, REAFFIRMED COSTA RICAN' S POSITION AGAINST A CHANGE IN THE PRESENT OAS SANCTIONS POLICY, AND AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT THE 1964 OAS RESOLUTION BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE. HIS READING OF THE PROBABLE LINEUP TALIED WITH OURS (PARA 4 REF A). HE PROFESSED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE AS TO HOW THE CUBA QUESTION MAY BE RAISED, BUT SUGGESTED THAT PERU MIGHT TAKE THE LEAD
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AGAIN.

3. SALAZAR ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FEELING WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS THAT SHOULD THERE BE AN UNEXPECTED SURGE OF SUPPORT AT THE OASGA FOR A CHANGE IN THE 1964 RESOLUTION BY A TWO- THIRDS VOTE, COOOA RICA WOULD NOT WANT TO BE IN THE POSITION MF CASTING THE DECIDING VOTE. THAT IS, COSTA RICA WOULD NOT WISH TO BE LEFT IN A CAMP OF HARD- LINERS ON CUBA CONSISTING MOSTLY OF " DICTATORSHIPS" IF IT COMES TO A VOTE THAT CLOSE OR THE PROSPECT OF A LOSING CUASE. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE DOES NOT NOW EXPECT SUCH A SITUATION TO DEVELOP.

4. SALAZAR OBSERVED THAT OTHER THAN A POSSIBLE DEBATE ON CUBA, THE OASGA AGENDA IS NOT A WEIGHTY ONE. HE CONSIDERED THIS UNFORTUNATE, SINCE HE FEARS THAT IF THE OAS DOES NOT GRAPPLE DIRECTLY WITH THE MAJOR ISSUES OF THE HEMISPHERE IT CAN EXPECT INCREASINGLY TO LOSE RELEVANCY COMPARED WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND FORUMS, AS HAPPENED RECENTLY IN PANAMA. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW HIGH LEVEL INTEREST IN THIS ASSEMBLY TO HELP MAINTAIN INTEREST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM.

5. THE MINISTER CONCULDED THAT THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATION WILL GO TO WASHINGTON WITH AN OPEN MIND AND NO PRIOR COMMITMENTS CONCERNING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR RESTRUCTURING THE OAS.

6. SALAZAR SAID HE HAS NO PLANS TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY ROGERS, BUT LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING HIM DURING THE MEETING.

7. COMMENT: WITHOUT THE EXPERIENCED HAND OF FONMIN FACIO AT THE HELM, THE CR DELEGATION MAY BE UNSTEADY AND SUBJECT TO HARD LOBBYING BY OTHER DELEGATIONS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THEREFORE IT MAY PAY DIVIDENDS FOR USDEL TO MAINTAIN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH SALAZAR AND AMBASSADOR LOPEZ. ON THE CUBAN QUESTION, HOWEVER, ANY IMPORTANT DECISION THE CR DELEGATION MAY BELIEVE IT HAS TO MAKE WILL CERTAINLY BE SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT FIGUERES GIVEN HIS STRONG VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO GUATEMALA
MANAGUA
MULTIPLE
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